DETAILED ACTION

Miscellaneous

A board decision has been rendered in this application on 3/29/2010. Before the decision, claims 6,7,10 and 26 were objected to as being allowable subject matter. However, upon closer review, claims 6,7 and 10 are not believed to be allowable, prompting this Non-Final Office Action. Claim 26 remains allowable.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 8 and 24 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 8 recites, "…the image utilization fields include a deletion field indicating whether the digital camera should delete the captured image…" However, claim 1 recites, "…the image utilization fields identifying respective instructions for utilization of one or more digital images by the external device…" Claim 8 contradicts the language of claim 1 where the one of the image utilization fields instructs the digital camera not the external device. A similar contradiction exists between claim 21 and 24.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-5,8,11,16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Safai (US # 6,167,469).

As to claim **1**, Safai teaches a digital camera (Figure 1) for capturing digital images (Figure 2, image detector "202"; Col. 5, Lines 37-39) and organizing the captured images for subsequent transfer (Figure 4F, photos: 1,4) from the digital camera (Col. 12, Lines 36-49) to an external device that utilizes the digital images (*A personal computer, that is used to check the email to which the images have been sent, can inherently utilize images for display or a software image editing program such as Adobe Photoshop.*), comprising:

(a) means for providing a database (Figure 4F, Col. 12, Lines 63-67; Col. 13, Lines 1,2, "…Out Box is a data structure…") having a plurality of customized profiles (Figure 4F, Col. 12, Lines 66,67; Col. 13, Lines 1,2), wherein each customized profile contains a plurality of image utilization fields (Figure 4F, To: "466", Photos: "468", Voice Message: "470", Delete Pictures after Sending "472"), the image utilization fields identifying respective instructions for utilization of one or more digital images by the external device (*To: "466" and Photos: "468" represent instructions on which photos the computer is to display and Voice Message "470" represent an instruction for the computer to let the receiver of the images know there is a voice message to be heard.*);

(b) means for selecting one of the plurality of customized profiles from the database (Col. 13, Lines 3-6);

(c) means for defining a plurality of profile indices respectively corresponding to ones of the plurality of customized profiles (Figure 4F; *{The To: field is indicative of the name f the message ready to be transmitted.}*);

(d) an image sensor for capturing images (Figure 1, image detector "202"; Col. 5, Lines 37-39);

(e) means for associating a profile index with at least one captured image to identify the corresponding selected customized profile (Figure 4F; *{The To: and Photos: fields are together in the same message.}*).

(f) storage means for receiving and storing the at least one captured image and the corresponding profile index (Col. 6, Lines 2-4; Col. 12, Lines 63-67; Col. 12, Lines 1,2; *{Examiner interprets storage means as any means for storage in the digital camera.}*).

As to claim **2**, Safai teaches the digital camera according to claim 1 wherein the database is a profile table (Col. 13, Lines 1-6, "…list of messages…").

As to claim **3**, Safai teaches the digital camera according to claim 1 wherein the storage means is a removable memory card (Col. 6, Lines 2-4).

As to claim **4**, Safai teaches the digital camera according to claim 1 wherein a plurality of captured images are associated with the same customized profile (Figure 1, Photos: 1,4 associated with the message of Figure 4F) and stored in the storage means (Col. 12, Lines 66,67; Col. 13, Lines 1,2; Outbox).

As to claim **5**, Safai teaches the digital camera according to claim 1 wherein the database is stored in the digital camera (Col. 12, Lines 66,67).

As to claim **8**, Safai teaches the invention according to claim 1 wherein the external device receives the captured image from the digital camera (Col. 8, Lines 15-27) and wherein the image utilization fields include a deletion field indicating whether the digital camera should delete the captured image from the storage means after storage of the captured image in the external device (Figure 4F, Delete Pictures after Sending "474").

As to claim **11**, Safai teaches the digital camera according to claim 1 wherein the image utilization fields include a destination directory indicating a storage location in the external device for storing the corresponding captured image (Figure 4F, gwang@photoaccess.com).

As to claim **16**, Safai teaches a digital camera (Figure 1) for capturing digital images (Figure 2, image detector "202"; Col. 5, Lines 37-39) and organizing the captured images for subsequent transfer (Figure 4F, photos: 1,4) from the digital camera (Col. 12, Lines 36-49) to an external device (Col. 8, Lines 61-67) that utilizes the digital images (*A personal computer, that is used to check the email to which the images have been sent, can inherently utilize images for display or a software image editing program such as Adobe Photoshop.*), comprising:

(a) an image sensor for capturing a plurality of images (Figure 1, image detector "202"; Col. 5, Lines 37-39);

(b) storage means for storing the plurality of captured images (Col. 6, Lines 2-4);

(c) means for storing an image deletion mode for each stored image which indicates that such stored image is to be deleted from the storage means after such stored image is transferred to the external device (Figure 4F, Delete Pictures after Sending "472"; Col.

12, Lines 63-66), wherein the image deletion mode is stored as one of the plurality of image utilization fields in a given one of a plurality of customized profiles (Col. 12, Lines 63-67; Col. 13, Lines 1,2), particular ones of the customized profiles being selectable for use with one or more of the stored images (Figure 4F; *{Photos 1,4 are selected for deletion after sending.}*); and

(d) a user interface (Figure 4A, top-level menu) for selecting a particular one of the customized profiles (Col. 13, Lines 3-6), having the image deletion mode as one of the image utilizations fields thereof, for at least one stored image (Col. 12, Lines 63-66), wherein the particular one of the customized profiles is selected for the at least one image by storing in association with the at least one image a corresponding profile index that identifies said profile from among the plurality of customized profiles (Figure 4F, "Photos: 1,4"; Col. 12, Lines 63-67; Col. 13, Lines 1,2; *{The To: field "466" can be thought of as a profile index, because the user can recognize that he/she intended to send to that address and pick that one out of the list.}*).

As to claim **17**, Safai teaches a digital camera (Figure 1) for capturing digital images (Figure 2, image detector "202"; Col. 5, Lines 37-39) and organizing the captured images for subsequent transfer (Figure 4F, photos: 1,4) from the digital camera (Col. 12, Lines 36-49) to an external device (Col. 8, Lines 61-67) that utilizes the digital images (*A personal computer, that is used to check the email to which the images have been sent, can inherently utilize images for display or a software image editing program such as Adobe Photoshop.*); comprising:

(a) means for providing a profile table (Col. 12, Lines 63-67; Col. 13, Lines 1,2);

(b) means for customizing the profile table to provide a plurality of customized profiles (Col. 12, Lines 63-67; Col. 13, Lines 1,2; *{Each time a message is stored, another customized profile is created.}*), wherein each customized profile contains a plurality of image utilization fields (Figure 4F, To: "466", Photos: "468", Voice Message: "470", Delete Pictures after Sending "472"), the image utilization fields identifying respective instructions for utilization of one or more digital images by the external device (*To: "466" and Photos: "468" represent instructions on which photos the computer is to display and Voice Message "470" represent an instruction for the computer to let the receiver of the images know there is a voice message to be heard.*);

(c) means for selecting a customized profile from the customized profile table which corresponds to desired image utilization fields (Col. 13, Lines 3-6);

(d) means for defining a plurality of profile indices respectively corresponding to ones of the plurality of customized profiles (Figure 4F; *{Entering text in the To: field is indicative of the name of the message.}*);

(e) an image sensor for capturing images (Figure 1, image detector "202"; Col. 5, Lines 37-39);

(f) means for associating a profile index to at least one captured image to identify the corresponding selected profile (Figure 4F; *{The To: and Photos: fields are together in the same message.}*); and

(g) storage means for receiving and storing the at least one captured image and the corresponding profile index (Col. 6, Lines 2-4; Col. 12, Lines 63-67; Col. 12, Lines 1,2).

As to claim **18**, Safai teaches the digital camera according to claim 17 wherein the means

for customizing the profile table includes producing a new profile (Col. 12, Lines 63-67; Col. 13, Lines 1,2) having a different plurality of image utilization fields with at least one of the image utilization fields being different (*It is inherent that the deletion field could be checked or unchecked between messages.*).

As to claim **19**, Safai teaches the digital camera according to claim 17 wherein the means for customizing the profile table includes means for editing an existing profile to have a different plurality of image utilization fields (*It is inherent that the deletion field could be checked or unchecked between messages.*) with at least one of the image utilization fields being edited (*Voice messaged could be checked or unchecked between messages.*).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 6 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Safai (US # 6,167,469) in view of Tomat et al. (US 2009/0207254).

As to claim **6**, Safai teaches the digital camera according to claim 1 wherein the external device is a storage device (*It is inherent a computer is a storage device.*). The claim differs from Safai in that it requires that the image utilization fields include an image format field indicating the format to be used for storage of the captured image in the storage device.

In the same field of endeavor, Tomat et al. teaches a system for managing digital images, wherein a digital camera transfers digital images to a host computer (Figure 1; [0089]). The system includes the option for a user to manually enter customizable processing options (Figure 13). These options include entering a specified image format in which the transferred image is to be saved on the host computer (Figure 13, Save Photos as: TIFF Bitmap "134"; [0134]). The host computer also obtains information on a the particular type of digital camera that captured the images (Figure 11 camera model area "86"; [0121]). In light of the teaching of Tomat et al., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include the option to save the transferred images in a particular format and the option to include the name of the camera which captured the images in the Send Message Screen of Safai, because an artisan of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that this would allow the desired format to be used, thereby saving space in the external device and minimizing transfer time. Furthermore, providing information regarding the type of digital camera used in capture allows a third-party user viewing the images to assess the quality of the camera by assessing the quality of the images.

As to claim **10**, Safai, as modified by Tomat et al., teaches the digital camera according to claim 1 wherein the image utilization fields include an identification field, which identifies the

particular digital camera that captured the corresponding image (Figure 11 camera model area "86"; [0121]).

2. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Safai (US # 6,167,469) in view of Roberts (US # 6,496,222).

As to claim 7, Safai teaches the invention according to claim 1 wherein the external device receives the captured image from the digital camera (Col. 8, Lines 15-27). The claim differs from Safai in that it requires the image utilization fields include a field designating user preferred software application stored in the external device adapted for utilizing the captured image.

In the same field of endeavor, Roberts et al. teaches an image utilization field which includes an image editing preference application software field designating a software application stored in the external device and further including the step of applying the designated user preferred application software to the modified transferred captured image (see Figure 14A, "APPLE V1", "IBM V2"; Col. 12, Lines 16-35). In light of the teaching of Roberts et al., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include in the image utilization fields of Safai an image preference application software field. The modification of including a software application program field would allow the user to avoid erroneous image transfer due to incompatibility with the right software application program (see Roberts et al., Col. 12, Lines 37-42).

3. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Safai (US # 6,167,469) in view of Safai (US 20030048361).

As to claim **12**, Safai ('469) teaches the digital camera of claim 1. The claim differs from Safai in that it requires flash EPROM in which the database is stored in the flash EPROM.

In the same field of endeavor, Safai ('361) teaches a memory card that is flash EPROM ([0065]). In light of the teaching of Safai ('361), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include flash EPROM as the data structure "OUTBOX", because an artisan of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that this would allow the memory medium to retain the data stored when outage or battery failure were to occur.

4. Claims 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuba (US # 5,806,072) in view of Roberts (US # 6,496,222).

As to claim **13**, Kuba et al. teaches a digital camera (see Figure 1) for capturing digital images and organizing the captured images for subsequent transfer from the digital camera to an external device (see Abstract, computer in Line 6) that utilizes digital images (see Abstract), comprising:

a) an image sensor for capturing images (see Figure 2, image pick-up unit "2")

b) a storage means (see Figure 2, memory card "14")

c) a user interface (Figure 3) for selecting customized profiles (Figure 7, customized profile; Col. 15, Lines 51-55)

d) a storage means for storing the at least one captured image (see Figure 2, memory card "14"; Col. 14, Lines 57-61).

The claim differs from Kuba et al. in that it requires that the storage means contain a plurality of software application identifiers which identify corresponding software application programs which are resident on the external device, and are stored within customizable profiles, the user interface selects one of the plurality of software application identifiers which identify corresponding software application programs which are resident on the external device wherein the selected one of the plurality of software application program identifiers being associated with the at least one captured image by storing an identifier of the corresponding customized profile with the at least one captured image, and a storage means for receiving the at least one captured image and software application identifier, and for storing the software application identifier.

In the same field of endeavor, Roberts et al. teaches a storage means which contains a plurality of software application program identifiers (see Figure 2A, data diskette "50", Format Apple = 00, IBM = 01 "57") which correspond to software application programs resident on the external device (*IBM (PC) and Apple (MAC) computers contain different software, which is what makes them fundamentally different. The program identifiers are stored with the image data (see FORMAT "57" with IMAGE DATA "53".*), a user interface for selecting the software application program identifiers (see Figure 6, switch "17"; Col. 4, Lines 61-64), and a storage means (see Figure 10, "PC") for receiving the at least one captured image and software application identifier (see Figure 14A, CPU "20"), and for storing the software application identifier (see Figure 10, "PC"; {*The digital image information, which includes the software application program identifiers as the format bits (see Figure 2A), is sent to the computer as can be seen from the flow diagram in Figure 10; whereupon, inherently that the information will be stored in the computer.*}). In light of the teaching of Roberts et al., it would have been obvious to

one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include software application program identifiers in the storage means, modify the user interface of Kuba et al. to be able to select one of the plurality of software application programs, and include a storage means for receiving the at least one captured image and software application identifier, and for storing the software application identifier. The modification of including software application program identifiers would allow the user to avoid erroneous image transfer due to incompatibility with the right software application program (see Roberts et al., Col. 12, Lines 37-42). The user interface modification would allow for user friendliness and an assured quality transfer of images. The storage means modification allows the user to view images on a computer, which can perform more sophisticated image processing algorithms.

As to claim **14**, Kuba et al., as modified by Roberts et al., teaches the invention according to claim 13 wherein the external device (see Roberts et al., Figure 10, "PC") receives the at least one captured image and the associated software application program identifier and invokes the corresponding program identified by the software application program identifier to process the at least one captured image in accordance with the corresponding software application program (see Roberts et al., Col. 12, Lines 16-37; see Applicant's arguments above).

As to claim **15**, Kuba et al., as modified by Roberts et al., teaches the digital camera according to claim 14 wherein the external device is a programmable computer (see Roberts, Figure 10, "PC"; Col. 2, Lines 16-20).

5. Claims 9,20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Safai (US # 6,167,469) in view of Steinberg et al. (US # 6,433,818).

As to claim **9**, Safai teaches the digital camera according to claim 1. The claim differs from Safai in that it requires a user designated code for permitting only authorized access to the selected customized profile.

In the same field of endeavor, Steinberg et al. teaches a digital camera requiring a password to access a set number of images (Col. 9, Lines 14-24). In light of the teaching of Steinberg et al., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to make the user enter a password to access the customized profile of Safai, because an artisan of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that this would prevent unauthorized user from tampering with private images and to whom they are sent.

As to claim **20**, Safai teaches a digital camera (Figure 1) for capturing digital images (Figure 2, image detector "202"; Col. 5, Lines 37-39) and organizing the captured images for subsequent transfer (Figure 4F, photos: 1,4) from the digital camera (Col. 12, Lines 36-49) to an external device (Col. 8, Lines 61-67) that utilizes the digital images (*A personal computer, that is used to check the email to which the images have been sent, can inherently utilize images for display or a software image editing program such as Adobe Photoshop.*), comprising:

(a) means for providing a database having a plurality of customized profiles means for providing a database (Figure 4F, Col. 12, Lines 63-67; Col. 13, Lines 1,2, "…Out Box is a data structure…") having a plurality of customized profiles (Figure 4F, Col. 12, Lines 66,67; Col. 13, Lines 1,2), wherein each customized profile contains a plurality of image utilization fields (Figure 4F, To: "468", Photos "470", Voice Message "472", Delete Pictures after Sending "474");

(b) means for selecting one of the plurality of customized profiles from the database (Col. 13, Lines 3-6);

(c) an image sensor for capturing a plurality of images (Figure 1, image detector "202"; Col. 5, Lines 37-39);

(d) storage means for storing the plurality of captured images (Col. 6, Lines 2-4); and

(e) a user interface (Figure 4A, top-level menu) for selecting a selected customized profile (Col. 13, Lines 3-6).

The claim differs from Safai in that it requires a user designated code corresponding to the selected customized profile for permitting only authorized access to the selected customized profile.

In the same field of endeavor, Steinberg et al. teaches a digital camera requiring a password to access a set number of images (Col. 9, Lines 14-24). In light of the teaching of Steinberg et al., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to make the user enter a password to access the customized profile of Safai, because an artisan of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that this would prevent unauthorized user from tampering with private images and to whom they are sent.

6. Claims 21-24,27-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Safai (US # 6,167,469) in view of Kuba (US # 5,806,572).

As to claim **21**, Safai teaches a method for transferring images stored in a digital camera to an external device (Col. 8, Lines 61-67; *{External device is the computer that the email which contains the images is checked.}*) having image transfer application software

(Col. 8, Lines 15-27), using a database having at least one customizable profile containing a set of image utilization fields (Col. 12, 63-67; Col. 13, Lines 1-6), comprising the steps of:

(a) using the image transfer application software to serially transfer a plurality of images to the external device (Col. 6, Lines 5-12; *{The data is inherently transferred digitally if it is transferred via telephone line.}*);

(b) accessing the set of image utilization fields (*The computer must access the email address to send the images to the correct email address.}*);

(c) modifying each transferred image file in the external device in accordance with the set of image utilization fields (Figure 5, *{If a voice message is checked, the images are modified in that a voice message will be attached with them.}*); and

(d) storing the modified transferred image file in a destination directory in the external device defined by one of the image utilization fields (Figure 4F, To: "468").

The claim differs from Safai in that it further requires that the plurality of customized image profiles be stored in a removable memory card.

In the same field of endeavor, Kuba teaches a plurality of customized image files stored in a removable memory card (Figure 2, memory card "14"; Figure 7Col. 16, Lines 36-50). In light of the teaching of Kuba, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include the ability of the camera of Safai to store the messages (see Safai, Figure 4F) in the memory card of Safai (Col. 6, Lines 2-4), because an artisan of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that the user would be able to still send the messages in another digital camera if the user's camera wasn't working properly.

As to claim **22**, Safai, as modified by Kuba, teaches the method according to claim 21 wherein the set of image utilization fields is stored on the external device (*It is inherent that the words gwang@photoaccess.com are stored in the external device.*).

As to claim **23**, Safai, as modified by Kuba, teaches the method according to claim 21 further including the step of editing the customizable profile in the external device (*After sending, it is inherent that the message is no longer available.*).

As to claim **24**, Safai, as modified by Kuba, teaches the method according to claim 21 wherein the image utilization fields include a deletion field and further including the step of deleting the modified transferred captured image in accordance with the deletion field from the removable memory card in the digital camera after storage of such image in the external device (see Safai, Figure 4F, Delete Pictures after Sending "474").

As to claim **27**, Safai, as modified by Kuba, teaches a computer program product having instructions therein for causing the external device to perform the method of claim 21 (see Safai, Col. 8, Lines 15-27).

As to claim **28**, the limitations of claim 27 can be found in claim 21 (a). Therefore, claim 27 is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to claim 21.

As to claim **29**, Safai, as modified by Kuba, teaches the method of claim 27 wherein the database is stored in the digital camera (see Safai, Col. 12, Lines 66,67; Col. 13, Lines 1-6).

As to claim **30**, Safai, as modified by Kuba, teaches the method of claim 27 wherein the database is stored in the external device (*The fields are inherently stored in the computer that checks the email.*).

As to claim **31**, Safai, as modified by Kuba, teaches the method of claim 21. The claim differs from Safai in that it requires the set of utilization fields include a filename suffix or filename prefix appended to the camera filenames.

In the same field of endeavor, Kuba et al. teaches a filename suffix appended to the camera filename (see Figure 60, suffix "J6C"). In light of the teaching of Kuba et al., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include a filename suffix appended to the names of the camera filenames of the image files of Safai. Such modifications would allow for the user to easily specify compression type; consequently, giving faster transmission of images.

As to claim **32**, Safai, as modified by Kuba, teaches the method of claim 21 wherein the external device is a network service provider (see Safai, Col. 6, Lines 5-19).

7. Claim 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Safai (US # 6,175,003) in view of Kuba et al. (US # 5,806,572) in further view of Roberts et al. (US # 6,496,222).

As to claim **25**, Safai, as modified by Kuba et al., teaches a method according to claim 21. The claim differs from Safai, as modified by Kuba et al., in that it requires the image utilization files include an image editing preference application software field designating a software application stored in the external device and further including the step of applying the designated user preferred application software to the modified transferred captured image.

In the same field of endeavor, Roberts et al. teaches an image utilization field which includes an image editing preference application software field designating a software application stored in the external device and further including the step of applying the designated

user preferred application software to the modified transferred captured image (see Figure 14A, "APPLE V1", "IBM V2"; Col. 12, Lines 16-35). In light of the teaching of Roberts et al., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify include in the image utilization fields of Safai, as modified by Kuba et al., an image preference application software field. The modification of including a software application program field would allow the user to avoid erroneous image transfer due to incompatibility with the right software application program (see Roberts et al., Col. 12, Lines 37-42).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 26 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: As to claim **26**, the prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest a step of updating a camera database and an external device database before captured images are transferred from the digital camera to the external device so that both the camera database and the external device database include the same profiles in combination with the rest of the claim and claim 21.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANTHONY J. DANIELS whose telephone number is (571)272-7362. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 A.M. - 5:30 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sinh Tran can be reached on (571) 272-7564. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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5/20/2010